

Southeast PTO Meeting Minutes- October 5, 2015

Attendance- Thao Doran, Dennis Thibeault, Jon Sgro, Jennifer Mott, Erin Clark, Kelly Lyman, Sheralyn Sibilia, Mary deVecchis, Virginia Walton, Lindy DeGennaro, Noreen Halbrooks, Erin Christopher, Lena Rossi, Maraiah Popeleski, Lauren Rodriguez, Melissa O'Donovan

Meeting called to order at 6:38pm by Erin Clark

1. Introduction of School Superintendent, Kelly Lyman- Erin Clark read a brief biography highlighting Ms. Lyman's educational background and introduced her to the PTO attendees. Ms. Lyman said she is very impressed with our schools and the opportunities students have within the district. She said attending lunch at Southeast has been one of her favorite experiences so far. Ms. Lyman plans to meet with each PTO/PTA group in the next 90 days to learn from each group. One challenge/goal Ms. Lyman has is to put onto paper current curriculum and instruction work that is being done and look at future changes. It was noted the budget process will begin in November. Ms. Lyman passed out notecards and asked attendees to please identify something we hope will not change in Mansfield schools and something we would like to see changed.

2. Presentation by Virginia Walton, Recycling Coordinator for the Town of Mansfield-"Food Too Good to Waste" - 40% of our food goes to waste. Why? Reasons include we make too much food or food goes bad. Small changes were suggested such as smarter shopping and better storage. Ms. Walton submitted a grant to the state to initiate a challenge for this school year. Families participate in a challenge for 4 weeks and keep containers to monitor food waste. This will allow families to try different strategies and get kids involved. How can the PTO help? Ideas to tie it into Southeast were discussed. Preventable snack food waste in the classrooms and also the message earth programs to help students be more aware were suggested. . The PTO told Ms. Walton we are interested and we will discuss timing of the program, possibly January.

3. Discussion about Fall Carnival and Silent Auction- Erin Christopher reported on the carnival. Pony rides were very popular this year so we will look into maybe having the ponies for a longer period of time next year. Having an entire committee of parents to help made the event very successful was a positive change this year. Having tickets bundled ahead of time is something to remember for next year or the idea of a punch card for activities was discussed. Lemonade and spin art made about \$178. The newly added box maze was very popular along with the new toilet toss. Jennifer Mott reported that the Silent Auction was very successful as it made over \$4800 this year and she thanked everyone who helped or donated. A few items did not sell so Erin Clark is looking into an online auction set up similar to last years.

4. Treasurer's Report- Noreen Halbrooks provided a brief overview of the income from the auction as some things are not finalized. The bake sale and ticket sales made more money this year(\$1,008.57) compared to last year(\$717.71). Also, we made \$293.00 in T-shirt sales.

5. Principal's Report- Mrs. Rodriguez thanked parents for all their hard work in making the carnival such a great event. She reported that Smarter Balanced scores were sent home last week. Southeast placed 2nd among the three elementary schools regarding scores and our scores fell in range with other similar schools. Teachers have discovered that the STAR test that Southeast gives three times a year produced similar results as the Smarter Balanced test. Ms. Lyman will be doing Smarter Balanced presentation at MMS this Thursday. Southeast will continue with the Aspire program this year. Fire Prevention Day is Oct 6th. On the upcoming Professional Development Day teachers will be getting technology training. Also, school enrichment time this year will include independent reading or intervention support for students. Mrs. Rodriguez reported that the Savory Samples event had a nice turn out this year and our school ELL population has grown.

6. Update about Relay for Life from Lindy DeGennaro- Sat Oct 17-18 11am-11am- Purple ribbons are going up around town to raise cancer awareness. Baked goods, Lindy's sugar scrubs, and Tony's pizza will be sold at the event. Also, there will be an auction with two different themed baskets- "movie in" and "night out." Donations are needed for both these baskets- examples, DVD's, restaurant gift certificates.

7. Upcoming Events and Fundraisers- Relay for Life, Jeanine fundraiser finished, Butter Braids is ongoing. The annual Thanksgiving Feast will be Friday November 20th. Parents will be asked to volunteer for this event and the Aspire computer survey will be available at this time for parents. The Uconn Book Fair run by Maryann Olson will be held the week of parent conferences. A fundraising meeting will be this Tuesday after school or possibly Thursday after school.

8. Southeast Directory- Nancy Banfield will be doing final edits.

9. Other- Tri-School Basketball event- PTO/PTA reps from three elementary schools had a meeting. Booking the Harlem Wizards basketball team to come to play this year was an idea discussed. The Wizards team would play a parent team comprised of parents from all three schools. A date is being looked into and pay and profit will be divided among the three elementary schools. Also, the playground at Mansfield Community Center is being built this weekend. PTO members contributed money to help supply food for the workers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Respectfully Submitted- Jennifer Mott and Sheralyn Sibilia , PTO Co-Secretaries